

Remarks

By this Response, all prior Claims have been withdrawn, without prejudice to bring forth at another time, and two new Claims were added -- Claims 17 and 18.

In the prior Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 13 and 14 as being based upon rejected base claims. The Examiner indicated the Claims would be allowable if these two claims incorporated the limitations of their base claim and their respective intervening claims.

By this Response, in an effort to expedite the progress of this Application, Applicants have recast Claims 13 and 14 into independent form. As such Claim 17 includes the limitations of Claims 13, 12, 11, 9 and 5 and Claim 18 includes the limitations of Claims 14, 9 and 5.

It is believed that the Application is now in condition for allowance and an early action to this end is earnestly requested. If it would promote the progress of the application for the Examiner to call the undersigned counsel, the Examiner is authorized to do so.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 23-0280. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 5, 2006

By: 

Roger H. Stein, Reg. No. 31,882
Wallenstein Wagner & Rockey, Ltd.
311 South Wacker Drive, 53rd Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6630
312.554.3300
Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on April 5, 2006.


Kathleen Rundquist/242687